

## **Thomas Prence – Eastham Land Records 1650 - 1745**

Thomas Prince arrived in Plymouth Colony from England in 1621. For many years he was Assistant to Governor William Bradford. He was elected Governor for annual terms in 1634 and 1638. He was leader of the group of forty nine from Plymouth who moved to (Nauset) in 1644. He was one of the original Purchasers.

Thomas Prince was elected Governor of the Colony again in 1657 upon the death of Governor Bradford. He received permission to govern from Eastham. He was reelected annually for fifteen years until 1672. He governed from Eastham until 1665 when he moved back to Plymouth. He died in 1673 and is buried in Plymouth.

The early records use the spelling Prince until about 1660 when Prence became the common spelling.

### 1653

Thomas Prince, William Bradford and other partners purchased a tract of land from Wono and his son Sachamus, Sachems of Sautucket. The land was in the Manamoyst and Namskaket part of Sautucket. The record refers to “lands, ponds, brooks, swamps, timber, etc”. The purchase must have included hundreds of acres. PDF A226.

### 1658

Granted to Thomas Prince his proportion of land due him laid out at Tonset. PDF P19.

### 1659

Granted to Thomas Prince ten acres of upland and two and one-half acres of marsh at Pochet. The land is next to the Indian fields and is bounded by marked trees, a stake and John Doane’s fence and the land runs to the Cove. PDF A132, M187, S17.

Granted to Thomas Prince thirty acres of upland in the Tonset section of Pochet. The land is between the two coves at the head of Mill Pond and includes a neck on the Pochet side at the mouth of Mill Pond. PDF A132, M187, S16.

Granted to Thomas Prince a house lot and Mr. Prince purchased Josiah Cook's adjoining house lot. Twenty acres of upland and two and one-half acres of meadow were included in the property. The property was northwest of the meeting house with the Cove on the easterly and southerly side, the common highway on the westerly side and the town brook on the northerly side. PDF A132, M187.

Granted to Thomas Prince eight acres of upland at Great Namskaket. The land was bounded by the marsh, the Dry Swamp and the land of Richard Sparrow and Edward Bangs. PDF A132, M188.

Granted to Thomas Prince five acres of meadow at Great Namskatet bounded by the meadow of Edward Bangs and the creek next to Daniel Cole. PDF A132, M187, S17.

Granted to Thomas Prince four acres on the south side of Boat Meadow containing a parcel of reeds lying up in a cove. PDF A134, M189, S17.

Granted to Thomas Prince two acres of meadow at the Common Cove in Boat Meadow bounded between property of Nicholas Snow and Samuel Hicks. PDF A134, M189, S17.

Granted to Thomas Prince six acres at John's Field beginning at the northern side of the Wolves Den lawfully possessed by Daniel Cole. PDF A148, M209, S21.

Granted to Thomas Prince three acres at the Wolves Den on the southerly side of John's Field lawfully possessed by Daniel Cole. The property adjoins his other six acres. The southeast corner of the property is next to the Swamp. PDF A148, M209, S21.

## 1662

Thomas Prence gave to his step-son Samuel Freeman and his wife Mercy the house and land where the Freemans lived. This was the property Prence had purchased from Josiah Cook in 1659. The property was north of the meeting house and south of where Prence lived. Prence reserved the right of access from his property through the Freeman land to the water. ( It would have been convenient for Prence to travel by boat across Town Cove to his property at Tonset). The Freemans were granted access through the Prence land to the common highway. PDF A131.

1665

Granted to Thomas Prence two acres of meadow at a place called by the Indians Poteponotucksett. The property was between property of John Smalley and Daniel Cole. PDF A134, M189, S17.

1670

Granted to Thomas Prence twenty acres where he thought most convenient that was not already laid out. This was because his great lot at Namskaket had not been as good land as others and was ten acres short. Ten acres of the twenty acres were granted on the south side of Namskaket beginning at Nicholas Snow's eastern bound mark and running east to a marked red oak and then running south to a marked maple in a little swamp and then running west to Nicholas Snow's range. PDF A228.

1672

Five acres of the twenty acres granted in 1670 were laid out by Mr. Prence next to the ten acres laid out in 1670 and next to land belonging to Joseph Rogers. PDF A228.

The other five acres from the twenty acres granted in 1670 were laid out by Prence next to his lot at the sea next to the Indians at Sautucket. PDF A228.

1673

Granted to Thomas Prence and John Doane twenty acres of upland to be divided equally at a neck where Billingsgate River joined Duck Creek. The land lawfully possessed by John Mayo. PDF A167, S55.

Granted to Thomas Prence four acres of meadow at Little Billingsgate on the hither side of the first river running to the fresh river. The land lawfully possessed by John Mayo. PDF A167.

Granted to Thomas Prence a parcel of upland on the northeast side of Long Pond. The land lawfully possessed by John Mayo. PDF A167, M235.

1676

Granted to Thomas Prence two acres or upland next to land of Joseph Rogers and next to the Little Creek. The land lawfully possessed by John Freeman. PDF M281, M282.

1677

Granted to Thomas Prence about one and one-half acres of land on the southerly side of Namskaket River. The land was one of ten grants at the river and was located between grants to Giles Hopkins and Daniel Cole. PDF A239, M263, S79.

1680

This is a recording of deeds related to the 1653 land purchase from the Indians. Land the Purchasers bought from the Indians at Satucket and Namskaket was partially distributed in ten lots. Thomas Prence received the eighth lot running from a marked tree in the little Maple Swamp to another marked tree running six acres in length into the woods. The lots are deeded to the person, their heirs, executors, administrators or assignees forever. PDF A227, M37.

Land outside the Indian bounds which extends from the sea side and little pond eastward to a marked red oak and then northward to a marked tree is granted one half to William Bradford and Thomas Prence and the other half to Joseph Rogers. This is a recording of an earlier land grant. PDF A227, M38.

The land owned by Thomas Prence described in these records amounts to about 140 acres. By 1745 no other Prences received Eastham land grants.